

U.S. - Mass. - Boston

Jamaica Plain Friendly Society

[N. B. Please preserve this Report, with list of visitors, for future reference.]

EIGHTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Jamaica Plain Employment and Temporary Relief Society,

For eight years now has this society pursued its quiet and careful work, helping the poor to help themselves, striving to break up the spirit of dependence by pointing out to applicants for aid that kind of labor for which they seem best fitted, and giving actual alms only in cases of illness or pressure of trouble. It has been our constant aim, in finding occupation for those persons who have come under our notice, to put them in the way of regular business, either by giving them work in families or stores, at prevailing prices, or by employing them on the sewing from the hall at moderate pay. In this department we have tried not to discourage by prices too low, nor to elate by prices too high. We have succeeded in making this tolerably business-like, finding sale for most of the garments made by even the poorest class of sewers. We have not found, in our experience, those evils which caused some of the conferences of the "Associated Charities" to abandon the giving out of sewing, but we have, on the contrary, seen much direct good to result from the practice, under constant supervision. It is a convenience, in a place like Jamaica Plain,

to have a stock of plain, useful garments always on hand for sale, and the moral influence is good upon the poor women who buy these garments and wear them, in preference to the flimsy, ill-made, though showy articles made in many shops at the same prices. We have orders for fine sewing constantly, and such orders, with those from the City Hospital, the Infant Asylum and the Women's Hospital, give employment to women more or less competent.

So much for the employment part of our society, by far the easier part to manage and to report on.

Upon the more delicate side of the work which we try to do, that of friendly visiting, which shall be unobtrusive and gentle, and, at the same time, shrewd and judicious, it is more difficult to report. Our endeavor is to have each poor or distressed family in the district into which we have divided a part of this Ward, placed in friendly relations with one of the more favored class, who can advise and cheer in a sympathetic spirit, and can fall back on our society for aid or employment, as either may be needed. In order to accomplish this thoroughly, many

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persons are required, and a great deal of their time must be taken up. In a community so scattered as ours, it can be easily seen that the ideal in this matter is hard to reach. Willing, and devoted, and numerous, as visitors may be, it is impossible for them to perform all that they may desire, or to make as frequent visits as they could in a thickly settled city, or often discover all the cases of poverty that are hidden within houses of fair outward appearance.

We ask the assistance of the public in bringing any such obscure cases to our notice, by reporting them at the hall, to our careful and invaluable agent, or by direct interview with the visitor of that district, whose name can be found at the end of this report.

We earnestly request, also, that any of the readers of our report, who may have leisure to give to work among the poor, will signify their willingness to join our band of visitors, for the larger the body of competent workers can be made, the more thoroughly the condition of the destitute will be understood and improved.

As heretofore we find intemperance at the bottom of much of the poverty we meet, and can yet reach no satisfactory remedy for the evil. In our eagerness to diminish the temptations here, the society chose a committee of gentlemen to wait upon the police commissioners and intercede with them to use their power as generally as might be in closing liquor saloons in this Ward. We must not regret that we made this expression of our desires, and, for what the commissioners

failed to accomplish now, we can only look forward with hope and longing to the future.

Our visitors are chiefly preplexed as to their duty with regard to the children whom they find suffering from the neglect of drinking parents. It is sad, indeed, to see bright, well-disposed boys and girls hungry and ragged, in miserable houses, while their parents squander good earnings in dissipation. But it proves to be of little use to give much while they remain in those homes. We try, in all cases where we can gain parents' consent, to remove such children to other homes, where they can be prepared to make some good use of life. In the worst cases, we find that the law will support us in removing them without the consent of those who neglect them either from cruelty or incompetence. In several cases we have found good to result from a visit of an officer of the "Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children." In one case last winter a boy was reported to us from a school as too tattered and dirty to be kept in his place. Before clothing him from the hall, a visitor, according to rule, went to look into the condition of his home and means of his father. This was found to be a wretched abode, the man an American, too infirm for active work, and his small pension, as a disabled soldier, inadequate to the support of his whole family. It seemed a clear case that this boy would be better off in some other place. The father's objections were strong, however, and had it not been for the kind and persistent pleading of the

visitor, who *would not* abandon the case, that boy would not have had the chance for training for usefulness which he now has in his good country home. We have under our knowledge, at this moment, a specially sad case of a girl of twelve, with face pinched by hunger, the child of an American man, who earns enough to make his family comfortable, but spends too freely on drink to provide for them. Whether it be wiser in us as a society to leave this bright girl to her natural protectors, or to take her away to a school or home where she may receive training for future health and self-support; as well as for self-respect, is the important question. Truly, it is a great responsibility to follow either course. We hope that our subscribers will recognize the difficulties which we have to encounter, and will be lenient judges of any mistakes or shortcomings which may come to their knowledge. All honor to those who give themselves to this service, and who act up to their best judgment in it! They undertake tasks of which outsiders can form but little idea, and we all know how much easier it is to criticise than to act.

Early in June, just as the year's work was ended, our hearts were saddened by the news of the death of our faithful treasurer, Mrs. F. H. Storer. She had been with us from the formation of the society, and had identified herself with every interest and improvement connected with it; not only performing the duties belonging to her office with the utmost thoroughness and fidelity, but

always holding herself ready to lend a helping hand where extra work might be needed. We begin our new year, sadly realizing the great loss that has come upon us, but grateful for the pleasant memories which we shall always cherish of so true a friend. May these memories inspire us to continue our work with renewed earnestness of purpose; and, as the years go on, may we be enabled to make it more and more a blessing to all who come under our care!

We acknowledge thankfully, as in former years, the gifts of partly worn clothing which friends have sent. Such garments are given with judgment, where they can do the best service.

We are thankful for the gift of coke, which has been continued to us by the gas company.

The boots and shoes which Mr. Vogel has given us again have been a great blessing. Children are often brought in to the hall, by the truant officer, who need proper clothing for the feet before they can be received at school.

Mr. Joseph Curtis, of the firm of Gunn, Curtis & Co., printed for our use the blanks for Visitors' Reports, together with books for business purposes, and refused to accept pay for his service. We offer him most sincere thanks for his generosity, and rejoice to see the interest in our work which prompted it.

Our agent, Mrs. Bradley, is at Curtis Hall every day from one till ten o'clock, except Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.

ANNE B. FROTHINGHAM,
ELLEN C. MORSE.

Number of women who have had sewing....	48
Number of applicants for aid or work.....	83
Number of persons provided with homes....	4
Articles made for institutions.....	648
Whole number made at Curtis Hall.....	1,970
Articles given away.....	238
Articles on hand at Curtis Hall.....	362
Shoes and India rubbers given away, pairs..	41
Number of families visited	90
Number of visits paid.....	565

Treasurer's Report, Oct. 1881 to Oct. 1882.

RECEIPTS.

Balance from last year.....	\$ 388.32
Subscriptions and Donations.....	1265.50
Sales from garments.....	353.01
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	\$2006.83

EXPENDITURES.

Work through employment com. ...	\$425.00
Materials for work.....	305.44
Agent's salary.. ..	358.90
Provisions and milk.....	125.38
Boots and shoes.....	44.00
Associated Charities of Boston....	102.00
Fuel	16.21
Printing.... ..	19.00
Blank books and stationery.....	12.75
Subscription to Philadelphia Register.....	8.00
Express	75
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	\$1416.53

Balance of cash on hand..... 590.30

\$2006.83

E. W. CLARK, Treasurer.

October 1st, 1882.

OFFICERS FOR 1882-83.

President: Rev. S. U. Shearman.

Vice-Presidents: Mr. Chas. P. Bowditch, Mr. J. F. Dorsey, Mr. C. E. Guild, Mrs. D. S. Greenough, Rev. Geo. M. Boynton, Rev. William Bradley.

Secretary: Miss Caroline E. Chickering.

Treasurer: Mr. E. W. Clark.

Assist-Treasurer: Miss Ellen C. Morse.

Executive Committee: Dr. George Faulkner, Chairman; Dr. E. P. Gerry, Rev. Charles F. Dole, Mrs. T. B. Frothingham, Mrs. R. W. Wood, Mrs. Charles E. Guild.

Committee for purchase of supplies: Mrs. D. S. Greenough.

VISITORS FOR THE PRESENT YEAR.

District 1, west of Center St., visitor: Miss E. C. Morse, Prince St.; associate: Rev. Geo. M. Boynton, Harris Ave.

District 2, vicinity of horse railroad station, visitor: Mrs. George A. Ives, Harris Ave.; associate, Mr. Patrick Mc-Morrow, Forest Hill St.

District 3, vicinity of Forest Hills Station, visitor: Mrs. A. D. Weld, Forest Hill St.; associate, Dr. A. H. Eayrs.

District 4, Canterbury, Mount Hope division, visitors: Miss Faulkner, Rockwood St.; Mrs. F. T. Webster, Morton St.; associate, Dr. Faulkner.

District 5, Canterbury St., visitors: Mrs. H. D. Morse, Pond St.; associate, Dr. Gerry.

District 6, Canterbury, eastern division, visitor: Mrs. Alfred Stebbins, Walk Hill St.; associate, Mr. C. E. Guild.

District 7, Washington St. and territory lying east thereof, visitor: Mrs. S. C. Smith, Burr St.; associate, Dr. E. P. Gerry.

District 8, Keyes St., visitors: Miss Wendall, Greenough Avenue; Miss Goodwin, Center St.; associate, Dr. H. C. Ernst.

District 9, Caroline Avenue, Child St., etc., visitor: Miss Davis, at Dr. Wood's, Revere St.; associate, Mr. Charles B. Cummings, Greenough Avenue.

District 10, Starr St., Union Avenue and vicinity, visitors: Mrs. C. S. Waldo, Walker St.; and Mrs. C. B. Cummings, Greenough Ave.; associate, Rev. C. F. Dole.

District 11, Green, Lamartine, Chestnut Sts., etc., visitor: Mrs. James Lee, Myrtle St.; associate, Rev. S. U. Shearman.

District 12, Boylston Ave. and Green St. to Washington St., visitors: Miss Jaques, Cedar Avenue; Miss Cutter, Pond St.; associate, Dr. H. C. Ernst.

District 13, Spring Park, Sheridan Avenue, etc., visitor: Miss Z. B. Smith, Spring Park, near Center St.; associate, Rev. William Bradley.

District 14, east of Boylston Avenue, from Green St. to Eggleston Square, visitor: Mrs. Alden Bartlett, Gordon St.; associate, Mr. George W. Fowle.